



SUPPORT TO SANTA CRUZ

The United States government, through its development agency USAID, implements a broad assistance program in Bolivia that supports the Bolivian Government's National Development Plan.



Bolivia is a leader in sustainable forestry management. The assistance of the United States government helps many indigenous communities and enterprises draw on the potential of Bolivia's rich forestry resources to produce value-added exports, generating sustainable jobs and well-being for the population.

Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government supports projects in numerous municipalities in the department of Santa Cruz. The projects reduce poverty through enterprise development and increased productivity, strengthen democratic processes and institutions, and improve access to health care for the poor. USAID's programs create social opportunities for marginalized populations.

1. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION

The department of Santa Cruz includes municipalities with varying degrees of poverty and needs. USAID complements the efforts of municipalities by supporting agricultural production, microfinance, business development, and environmental protection. Through technical assistance and improved market access, more than 3,000 producers in the Andean valley region now cultivate a range of products including onions, peppers, table grapes, peanuts and peaches for local markets.

USAID helps businesses with export potential to take advantage of market opportunities, gain market access and generate sustainable jobs. This support has resulted in approximately \$2.7 million in exports to the US and Europe in manufactured goods and textiles/apparel alone, resulting in new jobs and new investment. The technical assistance focuses on improvements in productivity and quality.

USAID also supports financial institutions and credit unions through the introduction of innovative and expanded services reaching more clients. During 2007 two new financial branches were opened with USAID support in peri-urban areas outside of the city of Santa Cruz.

2. IMPROVED ACCESS TO JUSTICE

USAID supports democratic institutions, including Bolivia's justice system. Since 2004, in areas where social conflict is fairly common and governmental presence is limited, USAID supports the Government of Bolivia to establish and run Integrated Justice Centers providing legal aid and similar services to the urban poor. In July of 2005, and with the support of the British Embassy, USAID inaugurated a Justice Center in Plan 3000, one of the most important peri-urban centers of the city of Santa Cruz. Currently, another Center is under construction in Yapacaní. In addition, USAID supported the establishment of a Client Attention Platform in the Santa Cruz Superior District Court. The objective of the Platform is to strengthen transparency and facilitate access to services in the courts to improve confidence in the judicial system.

3. INTEGRATED ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Since 2005, USAID has also supported critical road infrastructure (through neighborhood roads) in the Yapacaní municipal region. Every year more than 130 km of Yapacaní roads are improved or maintained for the benefit of over 3,000 families.

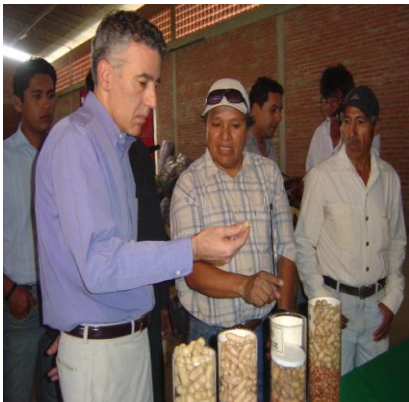
4. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTENCE

In 2006 and 2007 and in coordination with the Departmental government (prefecture), the United States government provided around \$1 million in humanitarian support in response to severe flooding affecting hundreds of families in Yapacaní and other areas of the Department.

5. IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF BOLIVIANS

Starting in 2007, USAID has coordinated with NGO health networks to support improved maternal-child health, the prevention and control of infectious diseases, and the provision of quality services. USAID efforts assist rural communities in 17 municipalities in Santa Cruz, and will reach 400,000 inhabitants with better health services. Santa Cruz is the headquarters of long-time USAID partner Prosalud, the largest network of private health service providers in the country attending 500,000 consultations nationwide each year. USAID has helped Prosalud establish and run 14 clinics in the city of Santa Cruz and one in Puerto Quijarro. CIES, an organization specialized in integral support for reproductive and maternal-child health, operates centers in Santa Cruz, and Camirii

A housing improvement project financed jointly by the Departmental government (prefecture), local municipalities and USAID will help protect more than 2,000 families against the Chagas disease.



Ambassador Goldberg visits a USAID peanut project in Samaipata.

7. EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENTS

With the installation of elected departmental governments in 2005, Bolivia took a significant step in strengthening accountable, decentralized government. As it does worldwide, USAID is providing basic institutional strengthening technical assistance and training to all nine of Bolivia's departmental governments to help them assume more effectively their new roles in planning, financing, and delivering services to citizens.

8. ENVIRONMENT

Bolivia has 2.2 million hectares of certified forest, and USAID supports sustainable forestry development activities to help communities profit from this great potential. Environment conservation activities aim to protect the Amboro National Park through educational campaigns, strengthen local capacity, and sustainable income generation for over 5,000 families. Working in 5 municipalities in Santa Cruz, USAID has helped put 1,758,450 hectares of forest land under sustainable management.



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USAID peanut project in Samaipata.*